

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 12, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BAKER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2820.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2820) granting a pension to Mary F. Hawley, submit the following report:

The committee, having examined the evidence in support of this bill, find Mary F. Hawley is the widow of the late Capt. John B. Hawley, Company H, Forty-fifth Regiment Illinois Infantry, who enlisted on the 24th day of December, 1861, at Rock Island, Ill., and was mustered into the service of the United States as a captain in Company H, Forty-fifth Regiment Illinois Infantry, for the period of three years; that he resigned his commission May 26, 1862. During the above period this officer rendered gallant and arduous service for his country during the war of the rebellion. He died May 13, 1895, from the effects of his hard campaigning during the early days of the war.

The following statement from his attending physician, Dr. W. H. Hanchett, of Omaha, Nebr., shows the nature of his last illness:

OMAHA, NEBR., April 23, 1896.

*Medical statement regarding John B. Hawley.*

During the last six or eight years of Gen. John B. Hawley's life I was his attending physician. He was a man of indomitable will power and of great ambition; hence much of the time, when his physical health was so impaired that he was unable to attend to his duties, by sheer force of will he accomplished more than many would in health. From my first attendance upon him I saw that his general health was badly shattered, and on careful research and inquiry I found that his troubles dated back to exposure during his army life. He was a constant sufferer from rheumatism and neuralgia, caused by the severest exposure during the late civil war. He told me that at one time after being exposed during a long drenching rain he was obliged to sleep on the ground, and by a sudden cold change in the weather found his clothing frozen upon his body. This terrible exposure brought on an attack of paralysis which lasted for many months, and in fact from which he never fully recovered. He had kidney trouble and also an affection of the bladder, which I believe was entirely traceable to this same severe exposure during army life. As a result of the rheumatism the heart was also seriously affected.

In truth, nearly all the internal organs of his body were in an abnormal condition; especially, I would mention the spleen, which was very much enlarged, and during his last sickness proved a very serious complication. He died about May 13, 1895.

W. H. HANCHETT, M. D.

In support of the statements of Doctor Hanchett the following other statements from well-known men in public life in Illinois show fully the

effects of the rigors of the campaign in which Captain Hawley participated. In answer to a series of interrogatories, Mr. D. O. Reid, of Moline, Ill., writes to Mrs. Hawley as follows:

MOLINE, ILL., February 29, 1896.

DEAR MADAM: In answer to yours of the 23d, the report of the death of my old friend, learned through the press reports, was to me a shock and a personal bereavement, our relations having always been so pleasant and kindly. I will, as briefly as possible, relate all I remember of our army association. Early in June, 1861, we began the enlistment of the company, it being supposed that we two were to be the principal officers. I remained in the station and personally attended to the business of recruiting the company until the final organization, September 23, 1861, he being elected, I failing an election.

Our camping on Big Island, the failure to secure a Congressional regiment, the transfer to Chicago, and incorporation of the company in the Forty-fifth Illinois, the rendezvous at Cairo, the ascending the Tennessee, the days made at Henry were all strange experiences to him, and long before we halted in the mud at Henry he had to lean on my shoulder for several miles, showing that these new experiences were a too severe introduction for one of his office culture. From Henry across to Donelson, including the assault under Morrison, the continued march to the right, when, during the night, the weather having grown extremely cold and snow falling, without tents, and, owing to our proximity to the enemy, fires were forbidden. A portion of the Wynns's ferry road was commanded by the enemy's artillery. We were without commissary stores. The company was three times before midnight advanced as skirmishers across an open field in their front and as often retired. During all these maneuvers Captain Hawley and I were together, but, after dismissing the company after our third return, I never again saw him in the army. The enemy's assault was made at daylight, and I was informed that he was taken violently ill and had been removed to the rear. I believe firmly that but for his sickness, incident to his exposure, he would have achieved a very enviable military record. His resignation was doubtless delayed by the hope that he might again resume his place in the company, but we were compelled to accept a condition made necessary by his physical disability.

I regret that I am unable to do more in the direction of furnishing proof to enable you to secure a recognition from the Government for the sufferings he endured.

I can not forbear, however, in this rude letter from an expression of my gratitude to him for the many kindnesses I have received from him.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID O. REID.

Mrs. J. B. HAWLEY.

Judge George W. Pleasants, of Rock Island, Ill., supplements the statements of Mr. D. O. Reid as follows:

I knew Captain Hawley from the time he came here, which I think was in the fall of 1853, having come myself in April of that year.

He was engaged in the practice of the law, being soon elected State's attorney for the circuit, then comprising six counties. He served for one term with marked ability and credit, but on account of the growth of his private practice declined to be a candidate for the office again. His business was quite extensive and of a good character. Until he entered upon his military service his general health was excellent. Of fine physical form and irreproachable habits he possessed and retained a remarkable degree of strength, activity, and energy. Associating with him almost daily during the whole of that period, I have no recollection of ever having heard him complain or knowing him to be unfit or unready for work on account of any physical ailment.

In the summer or early fall of 1861 he gave up his practice and devoted his time and labor to the raising of a company. Elected its captain, he went into camp with it on Big Island in Rock River near this city, and was then sent to Camp Douglas, near Chicago, where it became Company H of the Forty-fifth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. In December it was sent to Cairo, made a part of the brigade of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace, and of the force that were under General Grant at Forts Henry and Donelson.

I have no recollection of seeing Captain Hawley from the time he left Big Island until after the adjournment of the State constitutional convention, which met at Springfield in January, 1862, of which I was a member, and which adjourned March 24. The matters above stated as occurring after that time are therefore, of course, stated from public history and private information derived from him and others, the truth of which there can be no reason to doubt.

Upon my return from Springfield, having learned that he was at home and disabled, I promptly called to see him there and found him confined to his bed.

His ailment was said to be a compression and inflammation of the cartilages between the lower vertebrae, impairing their elasticity, and due to the conditions of the weather and of the march to and service at the siege of Fort Donelson, which for so long a time deprived him of the relief of a recumbent position. I can not from recollection state definitely the duration of his confinement to his bed, but believe it covered several months. The record is that he resigned May 26, and I think that was after he and his physician had become satisfied that he would not become fit for military duty.

There was considerable time after he got up before he attempted or was considered able to resume practice as a lawyer, but how long I am also unable, after the lapse of so many years, now to state.

His medical attendant was Dr. Calvin Truesdale, whose reputation as a man and as a physician and surgeon was of the first order. He continued to reside and practice his profession here until his death, which took place some three months ago at Minneapolis while on a visit to his son residing there.

I often heard him speak of Captain Hawley's case during the period of his treatment of it, and afterwards. He was then, and for many years continued to be, my own family physician also, and well knew my interest in it. The understanding of it which I got from him was substantially as above stated, and further, that it was an ailment to which infantry soldiers are peculiarly exposed.

GEO. W. PLEASANTS.

These statements have been sworn to, copies of which are in the hands of the committee.

His civil record is one of which any man might be proud. Born in Fairfield County, Conn., February 9, 1831, he went to Illinois with his parents when quite young; studied law, and on coming to the bar in 1852 settled at Rock Island, Ill. In 1856 he was elected State's attorney, serving four years. In 1861 he entered the Volunteer Army as captain and took an active part in the battles of Forts Henry and Donelson, according to evidence in the War Department. In 1865 he was appointed by President Lincoln postmaster of Rock Island and removed the year following by President Johnson. In 1868 he was elected a Representative from Illinois to the Forty-first Congress, serving on the Committees on Public Lands and Freedman's Affairs. He was reelected to the two succeeding Congresses, serving as chairman of the Committee on Claims.

From December, 1877, to April, 1880, he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Hon. John Sherman, and his conduct of the Assistant Treasurer's office during the days of specie resumption are spoken of by public men in a particularly praiseworthy manner. Later in life he removed to Nebraska, as general attorney of the Fremont, Elk Horn and Missouri Valley Railroad, which position he held at the time of his death. A wife and three daughters survive him who are in dependent circumstances.

In view of all the facts here set forth and the honorable and distinguished career achieved by Capt. John B. Hawley, your committee do recommend the passage of this bill when amended as follows: Strike out, in line 8, the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

